

## INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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1. At a meeting of all secretaries of the Area Committees of the German-Soviet Friendship Society (GDSF) at its head office in East Berlin on 18 June 1955, it was announced that the financial situation of the Society was in a very precarious state. It had been decided by the DDR Government to cut the state subvention to the Society by 4 million marks, allegedly because the Society could collect only 70% of its subscriptions.
2. Gerhard Wengatz, member of the Berlin Area Committee of the GDSF, responsible for organization, reported that the secretaries of all the Area Committees were exceedingly disturbed by the present position of the Society and demanded of the Secretary-General advice as to how they were to carry on. Some secretaries had told him that after paying all salaries their Area Committees had no more than about 30 marks left for political work; this was particularly the case of committees in mainly agricultural areas.
3. Gottfried Grünberg, the Secretary-General, said that the only solution was to cut down the number of paid functionaries yet again and it was decided to reduce staffs by 20%; this time the Central Committee was to be included in the cut.
4. It was decided to hold the long delayed congress of the GDSF in December 1955.

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